DC
SUPERMAN
STARRING IN
ACTION
COMICS
ALL NEW!
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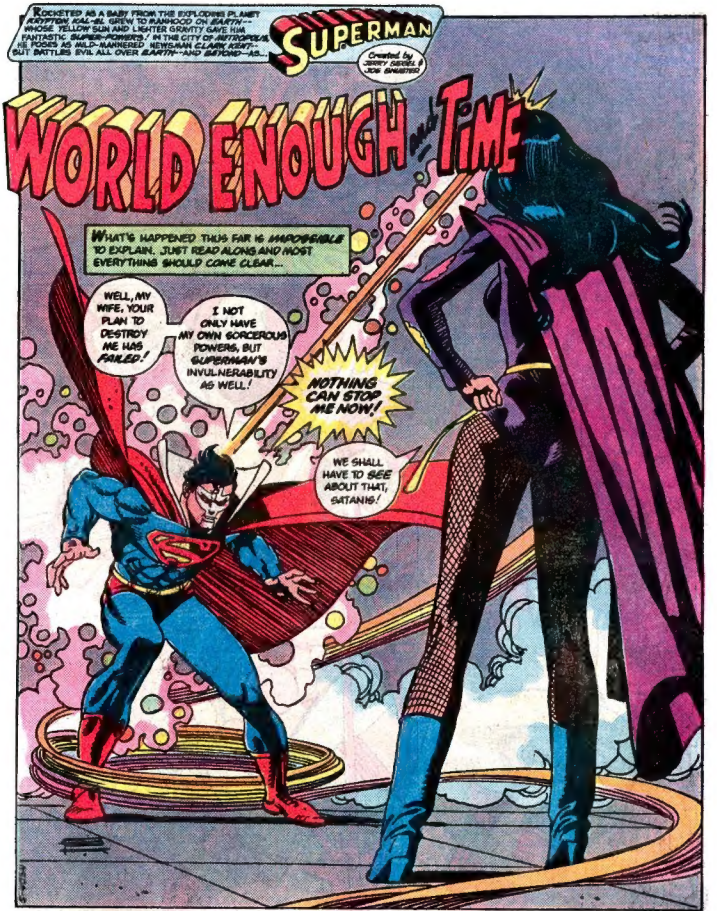
ROCKETED AS A BABY FROM THE EXPLODING PLANET KRYPTON, KAL-EL GREW TO MANHOOD ON EARTH--- WHOSE YELLOW SUN AND LIGHTER GRAVITY GAVE HIM FANTASTIC SUPER-POWERS.' IN THE CITY OF METROPOLIS, HE POSES AS MILD-MANNERED NEWSMAN CLARK KENT--BUT BATTLES EVIL ALL OVER EARTH--AND BEYOND--AS...
SUPERMAN
Created by JERRY SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER
WORLD ENOUGH AND TIME
WHAT'S HAPPENED THUS FAR IS IMPOSSIBLE TO EXPLAIN. JUST READ ALONG AND MOST EVERYTHING SHOULD COME CLEAR...
WELL, MY WIFE, YOUR PLAN TO DESTROY ME HAS FAILED!
I NOT ONLY HAVE MY OWN SORCEROUS POWERS, BUT SUPERMAN'S INVULNERABILITY AS WELL!
NOTHING CAN STOP ME NOW!
WE SHALL HAVE TO SEE ABOUT THAT, SATANIS!

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DO YOU FORGET SYRENE'S POWER IS BEYOND IMAGINATION?
I POSSESS MERLIN'S MYSTIC RUNESTONE! WHATEVER MY MIND CONCEIVES--
--BECOMES FRIGHTENING REALITY!
AND REALITY CAN CRUSH EVEN THE ONCE-GREAT SATANIS!
NEVER!
AND WHEN YOU COMBINE THEM WITH SUPERMAN'S EXTANT ABILITIES...
ENOUGH SPARRING, WIFE! I WANT THE RUNESTONE NOW!
AND IF I MUST SLAY YOU TO GET IT--
--SO BE IT!
...NOT EVEN THESE NEBULA-CONSTRICTORS CAN HOLD ME!
SORCEROUS POWERS ARE MINE AS WELL, SYRENE!
2

WHAT YOU HAVE JUST WITNESSED TOOK PLACE MORE THAN FIVE HUNDRED YEARS AGO! WHAT YOU ARE ABOUT TO SEE OCCURS TODAY...
METROPOLIS GENERAL HOSPITAL...
I JUST CAN'T ACCEPT IT, LOIS. CLARK CAN'T BE DEAD!
ONE MOMENT HE WAS SO ALIVE, AND THEN...
SUDDENLY I FEEL SO VERY OLD!
AND FRIGHTENED, JIMMY. IT HURTS INSIDE. IT HURTS SO VERY MUCH.
WHILE...
STARTING AUTOPSY...FIRST INCISION MADE, MOVING UP.
WE KNOW IT WASN'T A HEART ATTACK, DOCTOR. YOU THINK IT WAS FOUL PLAY?
WE'LL FIND OUT SOON ENOUGH!
NO!
STOP!
DON'T DO THIS! I'M NOT DEAD!
GOOD GOD! HE CAN'T BE ALIVE!
I...I AM... UHHH...
BRAIN-SCAN WAS NEGATIVE! HEARTBEAT HAD STOPPED! HE WAS DEAD!
I DOUBLE-CHECKED ALL THE FACTS MYSELF!
BUT HE'S ALIVE, DOCTOR!
I SEE IT... BUT I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!
HOW...?!?
3

P...PLEASE...I-I HAVE TO...GO...
NO, NO, MR. KENT...WE HAVE TO RUN TESTS!
THERE'S SOMETHING VERY STRANGE GOING ON HERE!
EMERGENCY!... I THINK I DON'T KNOW! CLARK KENT ISN'T DEAD!
NO, YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND... I CAN'T BE TESTED NOW...I...
I... UHHH.
HE'S COLLAPSED! LORD, HE MUST WEIGH A TON!
SOMEONE HELP ME GET HIM BACK ON THE BED!
DID YOU HEAR? IT'S UNBELIEVABLE!
NO WAY CAN HE BE ALIVE! IT MUST BE MUSCLE SPASMS!
I'LL BET YOU A DIMMER, FRANKLIN.
YOU'RE ON!
ALIVE? THAT'S CLARK'S ROOM!
H-HE IS ALIVE! I'VE GOT TO SEE HIM!
I DON'T BELIEVE THIS!
YOU HAVE TO UNDERSTAND, MR. KENT--THIS IS EXTRAORDINARY!
WE MUST CONDUCT TESTS!
NO! NO... I JUST WANT OUT!
L-LANA ...PLEASE HELP ME! GET ME MY CLOTHES!
OBVIOUSLY THEY DIDN'T FIND MY COSTUME AFTER I SUPER-COMPRESSED IT INTO AN ANT-SIZE BUNDLE!
OF COURSE, CLARK... RIGHT AWAY!
B-BUT I DON'T UNDERSTAND, HOW--?!?
4

CONTINUED ON 35 PAGE FOLLOWING.

I REALLY WISH I KNEW!
LET'S ALL BE GRATEFUL YOU'RE STILL ALIVE!
AMEN TO THAT, LOIS!
NOW, CAN WE GO ...PLEASE?
SHORTLY, IN LOIS LANE'S APARTMENT...
I'LL PUT ON SOME COFFEE. I THINK WE CAN ALL USE SOME.
I WAS SO SCARED, CLARK...
I'VE CARED FOR YOU SO LONG, AND WHEN...WHEN I THOUGHT YOU WERE GONE...
...I FELT LIKE A BIG PART OF ME HAD DIED, TOO.
I DIDN'T KNOW HOW MUCH I'D MISS YOU!
YES...WE HAVE BEEN GOOD FRIENDS FOR A LONG TIME, LANA!
CLARK, THAT WAS THE HOSPITAL CALLING. THEY WANT YOU IN FOR TESTS! IT'S FOR YOUR OWN GOOD, THEY SAY.
THEY ALWAYS SAY THAT, DON'T THEY?
BUT THEY CAN'T HELP ME NOW. I DOUBT THAT ANYTHING CAN.
COFFEE'S READY!
I CAN'T STAY, LOIS. CLARK, I'M SURE GLAD YOU'RE STILL WITH US!
SO AM I, JIM. BELIEVE ME!
CLARK, I'VE GOT TO DOUBLE FOR US ON THE NEWS SHOW. PLEASE ...TAKE IT EASY.
I'LL CALL YOU TONIGHT!
5

AND, AFTER THEY LEAVE...
GOSH, WHAT SWELL FRIENDS, YOU, TOO, LOIS. THANKS FOR LETTING ME STAY HERE.
I DON'T THINK I'D REALLY BE ANY GOOD ON MY OWN RIGHT NOW.
CLARK...
I HATE TO ASK YOU THIS!
SUPERMAN'S LOST HALF HIS POWERS... THEN YOU SEEMINGLY DIE. TELL ME--
ARE YOU SUPERMAN?
FOR LONG MOMENTS, SILENCE.
THEN...
...NO.
...I'M NOT SUPERMAN.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT I AM ANY MORE.
BUT I'M CERTAINLY NOT THE SUPERMAN I'VE ALWAYS BEEN.
ALL RIGHT, CLARK. YOU REST. I'LL SEE YOU TONIGHT.
...I DON'T KNOW IF I'LL EVER BE THAT SUPERMAN AGAIN!

AS CLARK'S MOROSE THOUGHTS DRIFT, WE RETURN TO HIS OTHER SELF... OR AT LEAST THAT PART OF HIS OTHER SELF THAT STILL EXISTS...
ME HAS BEEN MERGED WITH LORD SATANIS, SORCERER FROM THE FUTURE...
BUT, TO SURVIVE, HE WILL HAVE TO WORK TOGETHER WITH HIS MAGICAL ARCH-FOE...
KILL ME? SATANIS, NOT EVEN YOUR POWER COMBINED WITH SUPERMAN'S IS ENOUGH TO DEFEAT ME!
I HAVE BUT TO THINK-- AND YOU COULD BECOME A CRAWLING, MINDLESS, LIZARD!
YOU'RE POWERFUL, SYREN, BUT YOU HAVEN'T YET LEARNED HOW TO WIELD THAT POWER!
HERE, TRAPPED IN THIS LIMBO DIMENSION, YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO UNRAVEL MY VERY ATOMIC CORE--
--YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO EXPLODE ME LIKE SOME NOW-BOMB GONE WILD--
--BUT ALL YOU HAVE BEEN ABLE TO MUSTER IS A SIMPLE SPELL OF DESTRUCTION...
...WHICH I COUNTER SO EASILY IT IS ALMOST EMBARRASSING TO BEHOLD!
YOUR POWER MAY BE BEYOND ALL BELIEF, BUT YOUR MIND WILL HOLD YOU BACK!

WILL IT, HUSBAND? I DO NOT BELIEVE SO.
WITH EACH PASSING MOMENT, I GAIN MASTERY OVER MY ABILITIES.
FEEL MY POWER, SATANIS! FEEL IT PULL YOU APART! FEEL IT RIP INTO YOUR VERY ESSENCE!
THIS PLANET'S SURFACE SHIFTS, SATANIS! HOLD ON NOW—BEFORE YOU PLUNGE TO YOUR FINAL DOOM!
THE PLANET'S MAW OPENS TO SWALLOW YOU!
IT WANTS YOU, SATANIS!
FEED IT, SATANIS! FEED THIS LIMBO WORLD OF YOUR DOOM!
NOOOOOO!

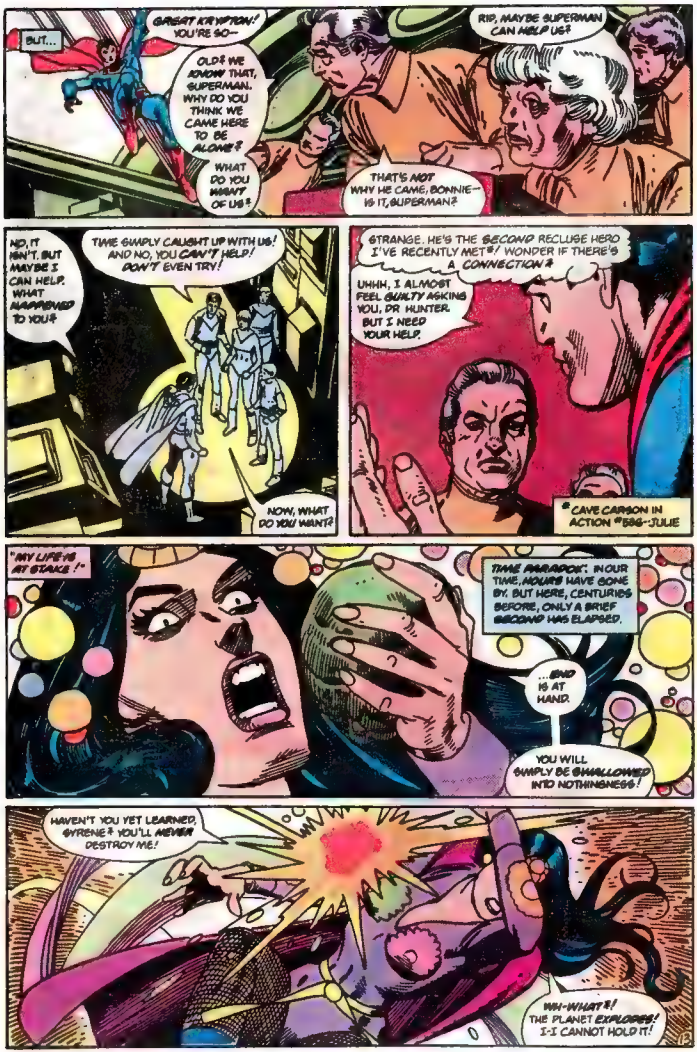
CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING.

IT IS NO USE. I FIGHT... BUT MY POWERS ARE NOT NEARLY GREAT ENOUGH!
SUPERMAN, WHATEVER PART OF YOU THAT CAN STILL THINK AND RESIST... I CALL TO YOU NOW!
AID ME NOW, VENERABLE FOE — OR BOTH OF US SHALL SURELY PERISH!
IT IS FINALLY OVER WITH, SATANIS!
OUR YEARS-LONG STRUGGLE HAS COME TO AN END!
I GROW LARGER THAN ANY WORLD AS I FEED UPON POWERS BEYOND THE INFINITE...
...AND I RESHAPE THIS WORLD THAT HAS SWALLOWED YOU WHOLE...
...MOLD IT AS I WISH!
CAN YOU HEAR ME, HUSBAND? CAN YOU HEAR THE TAUNTING IN MY VOICE?
YOU SLEW MY FATHER TO GAIN CONTROL OVER THE RUNESTONE, BUT NOW I POSSESS IT!
THE POWER WHICH YOU SO CRAVED SHALL NOW BE THE VERY POWER WHICH KILLS YOU!
9

SUPERMAN--YOUR BEING IS SUBMERGED WITHIN ME! COME TO THE SURFACE!
HEAR MY PLEA!
SUPERMAN--HEAR ME! ANSWER ME! HELP ME!
WE HAVE BUT MOMENTS OF LIFE REMAINING--
--BEFORE WE ARE COMPLETELY DESTROYED!
TO SURVIVE, WE MUST WORK TOGETHER!
COME TO ME NOW, HUSBAND.
YOUR END IS AT HAND!
NO!
D-DON'T
DON'T DO IT, EVERYONE!
N.. NO... IT WAS ONLY A DREAM... OR WAS IT?
MY OTHER HALF THE HALF SATANA AND SYRENE KIDNAPPED!
MY OTHER HALF IS ABOUT TO BE DESTROYED!
I'VE GOT TO STOP IT! IF IT DIES, I'LL DIE AS WELL!

B-BUT HOW DO I STOP HER?
MY EVERY WAY BACK INTO THE PAST HAS BEEN DESTROYED! THE LEGION'S TIME-BUBBLE... FLASH'S COSMIC TREADMILL ...ATOM'S TIME POOL.
WHAT DO I DO? WHAT DO I DO?
AND, SPLIT IN HALF AS I AM, I HAVEN'T MY OWN SUPER-SPEED AND INVULNERABILITY TO TAKE ME TO THE PAST.
LATER, AT THE OFFICES OF THE DAILY PLANET...
OKAY, PERRY, I WORKED UP THIS STORY ON FORGOTTEN SUPER-HEROES, BUT I STILL THINK IT'S TAKING ADVANTAGE OF SUPERMAN'S PROBLEMS.
YOU WORRY ABOUT MARRYING THE STORIES, LOIS! I'LL WORRY ABOUT WHAT'S FAIR!
OKAY, OKAY, TAKE IT EASY! LOOK, I CHECKED UP ON A WHOLE SLEW OF ONCE-FAMOUS HEROES...
ER--PERRY, CAN I SPEAK TO YOU? IT'S RATHER URGENT!
I'M STILL NOT ALL THAT WELL...
WE HAVE CAVE CARSON, OF COURSE, AND THEN THE SEA DEVILS, YOU MIGHT REMEMBER THEM...
...AND FRANKLY, I THINK IT MIGHT BE A GOOD IDEA TO GET AWAY FOR AWHILE...TO RELAX ...TAKE IT EASY.
THERE WAS ALSO THE SUICIDE SQUAD, AND A WESTERN HERO CALLED THE VIGILANTE. THERE WAS RAGMAN...
...OF COURSE THERE WAS RIP HUNTER, THE TIME MASTER, AND SOMETHING CALLED BWANA BEAST, AND...
I THOUGHT I'D GO TO EUROPE OR SOME PLACE LIKE THAT...
HOLD IT!
HOLD IT!
HOLD IT!

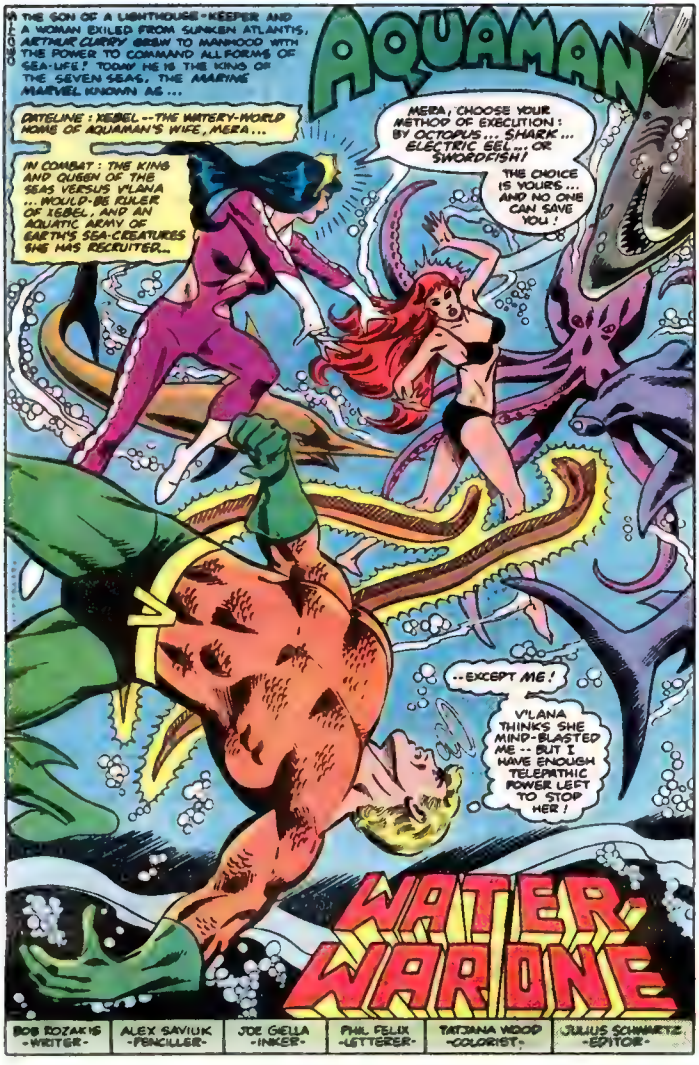
LOIS, JUST GO YOUR STORY! KENT, YOU'VE GOT A VACA--? KENT?
GREAT CAESAR'S GHOST! HE'S GONE!
AND STREAKING ACROSS METROPOLIS...
LOIS' STORY MAY HAVE PROVIDED THE SINGLE HOPE I'VE BEEN SEARCHING FOR!
SATANIS MAGICALLY SABOTAGED EVERY TIME-TRAVEL METHOD I KNEW ABOUT--
--BUT I'D NEVER HEARD OF THIS RIP HUNTER TILL LOIS MENTIONED IT.
AND IF HE'S EVERYTHING MY X-RAY VISION SCANNED FROM LOIS' NOTES, THEN I MAY HAVE FOUND MY ENTRY BACK INTO THE PAST!
HOW FRUSTRATING NOT POSSESSING MY SUPER-SPEED, IN THE PAST, I'D BE IN CALIFORNIA WITH-IN A NANO-SECOND.
NOW IT WILL TAKE MORE THAN AN HOUR!
PLEASE, RAO, GIVE MY OTHER HALF TILL I CAN MAKE IT TO HIS SIDE!
PERHAPS TOGETHER WE'LL FIGURE A WAY TO COMBINE ONCE AGAIN!
TIME SLOWLY CRAWLS ON BUT FINALLY...
LOIS' NOTES ARE ACCURATE ...THERE'S A CAR IN THESE NORTHERN CALIFORNIA MOUNTAINS.
AND MY X-RAY VISION SHOWS IT BELONGS TO RIP HUNTER! NOW IF HE CAN HELP--


BUT...
GREAT KRYPTON! YOU'RE SO—
OLD? WE KNOW THAT, SUPERMAN. WHY DO YOU THINK WE CAME HERE TO BE ALONE?
WHAT DO YOU WANT OF US?
RIP, MAYBE SUPERMAN CAN HELP US!
THAT'S NOT WHY HE CAME, BONNIE—IS IT, SUPERMAN?
NO, IT HAN'T. BUT MAYBE I CAN HELP. WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU?
TIME SIMPLY CAUGHT UP WITH US! AND NO, YOU CAN'T HELP! DON'T EVEN TRY!
NOW, WHAT DO YOU WANT?
STRANGE. HE'S THE SECOND RECLUSE HERO I'VE RECENTLY MET*! WONDER IF THERE'S A CONNECTION?
UHHH, I ALMOST FEEL GUILTY ASKING YOU, DR HUNTER. BUT I NEED YOUR HELP.
* CAVE CARSON IN ACTION #586-JULIE
"MY LIFE IS AT STAKE!"
TIME PARADOX: IN OUR TIME, HOURS HAVE GONE BY. BUT HERE, CENTURIES BEFORE, ONLY A BRIEF SECOND HAS ELAPSED.
...END IS AT HAND.
YOU WILL SIMPLY BE SWALLOWED INTO NOTHINGNESS!
HAVEN'T YOU YET LEARNED, SYRENE? YOU'LL NEVER DESTROY ME!
WH-WHAT?! THE PLANET EXPLODES! I-I CANNOT HOLD IT!

AND YET I HAVE BECOME FREER, SYRENE! OR RATHER, WE HAVE FREED OURSELVES, SUPERMAN AND I!
THE TWO OF US ARE WORKING TOGETHER NOW, WIFE!
TWO OF US, INHABITING BUT A SINGLE BODY!
ALL OF OUR POWER DEDICATED BUT TO ONE END: YOUR DESTRUCTION!
NO! REMEMBER, SATANIS--WE FIGHT TO STOP SYRENE! NOT TO KILL HER!
YOUR WORKING TOGETHER WILL MEAN NOTHING!
THEY ARE MINE, AND NOTHING CAN CHANGE THAT!
THIS LIMBO WORLD ONLY RULES YOUR POWER, SYRENE!
WE MUST NOT STAY HERE A MOMENT LONGER!
YES, YES...I KNOW THAT, SUPERMAN--I HAVE NOT FORGOTTEN
I STILL POSSESS THE KLAESTRONE'S POWERS!
GET BACK! AWAY FROM ME, SATANIS!
NO! WE CANNOT LET YOU DESTROY US!

WE'RE OUT OF THAT SPACE-PHAGE--HEADING BACK TO EARTH!
DON'T YOU SEE NOW, SYRENE--YOU CAN-NOT WIN!?
SUPERMAN AND I WORK TOGETHER--OUR POWERS ARE GREAT, AND WE WORK SOLELY TO STOP YOU!
SATANIS, I SENSE YOUR PLAN--CEASE IT NOW!
NO, SUPER-MAN, IT IS TOO LATE! I'VE GONE TOO FAR!
TO STOP SYRENE, SHE MUST DIE!
I WON'T LET YOU DO IT TO HER, SATANIS.
NO ONE COULD STOP ME, SUPER-MAN!
MY WIFE WILL DIE--
--AND IT WILL BE YOUR POWERS THAT KILL HER!
NO!

NOOOOOO!
THERE IS A SCREAM WHICH ECHOES THROUGH THE AGES. ONE MOMENT THIS SORCERESS FROM THE FUTURE IS HERE...
...THE NEXT SHE IS--!
NOW ONLY I STAND ALONE AND POWERFUL!
ONLY I POSSESS THE POWER!
SYRENE IS GONE!
SHE ISN'T DEAD, SATANIS.
SHE IS, YOU FOOL. SHE'S DEAD! AND WITH THAT POWER SHE POSSESSED, I CAN RULE ALL TIME!
YOU WON'T SUCCEED, SATANIS. I'LL STOP YOU!
YOU CAN'T, SUPERMAN. YOU ARE SUBMERSED TOO DEEP WITHIN ME TO PROVE ANY THREAT!
YOU'RE WRONG, SATANIS!
I AM HERE!
AND I'M READY TO FIGHT--
--IF NEED BE, TO THE FINISH!
AT LAST! THE CLIMACTIC CONCLUSION--NEXT ISSUE!


AQUAMAN
THE SON OF A LIGHTHOUSE-KEEPER AND A WOMAN EXILED FROM SUNKEN ATLANTIS, ARTHUR CURRY GREW TO MANHOOD WITH THE POWER TO COMMAND ALL FORMS OF SEA-LIFE! TODAY HE IS THE KING OF THE SEVEN SEAS, THE MARVEL KNOWN AS...
DATELINE: XEBEL--THE WATERY-WORLD HOME OF AQUAMAN'S WIFE, MERA...
IN COMBAT: THE KING AND QUEEN OF THE SEAS VERSUS VULANA ...WOULD-BE RULER OF XEBEL, AND AN AQUATIC ARMY OF EARTH'S SEA-CREATURES SHE HAS RECRUITED...
MERA, CHOOSE YOUR METHOD OF EXECUTION: BY OCTOPUS... SHARK... ELECTRIC EEL... OR SWORDFISH!
THE CHOICE IS YOURS... AND NO ONE CAN SAVE YOU!
--EXCEPT ME!
VULANA THINKS SHE MIND-BLASTED ME -- BUT I HAVE ENOUGH TELEPATHIC POWER LEFT TO STOP HER!
WATER-WAR ONE
BOB ROZAKIS -WRITER-
ALEX SAVIUK -PENCILLER-
JOE GIELLA -INKER-
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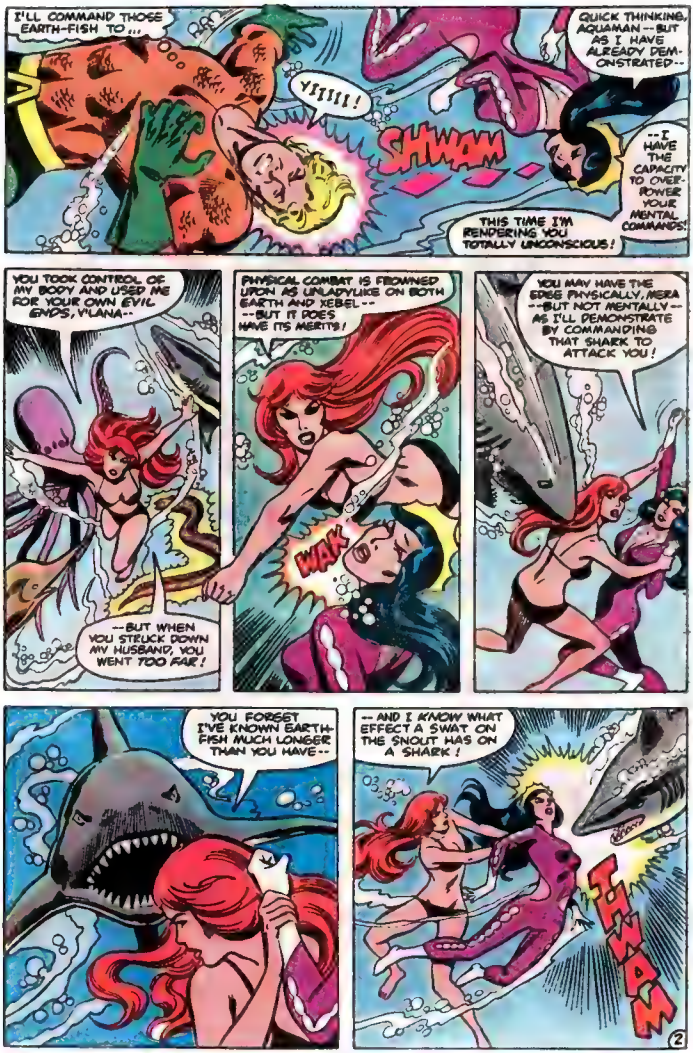
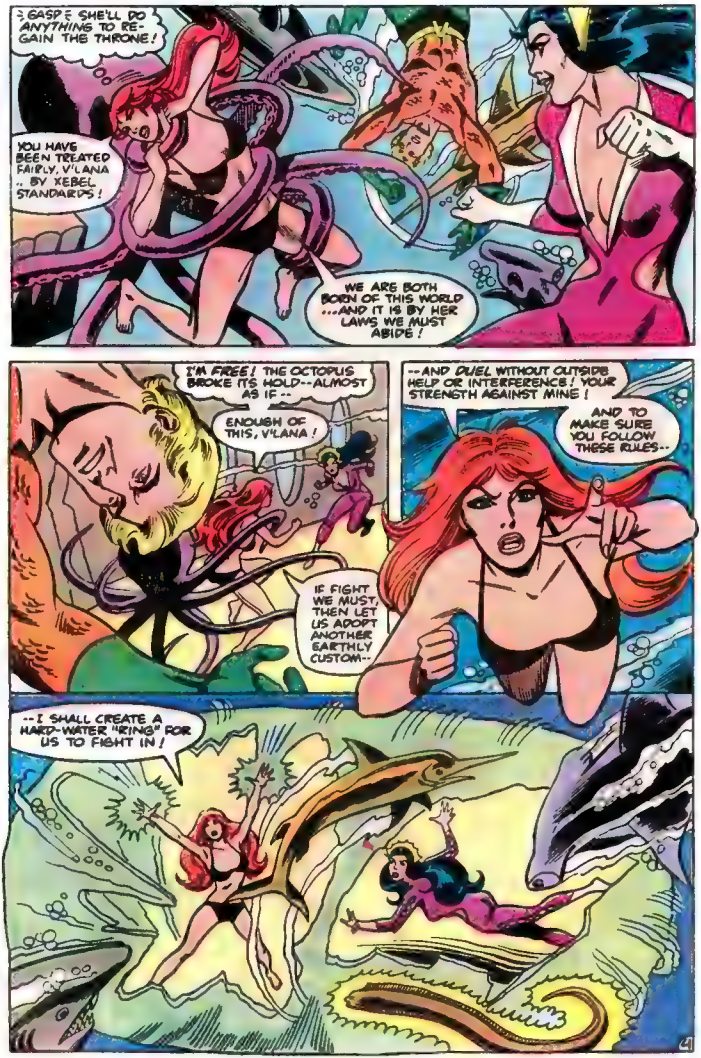
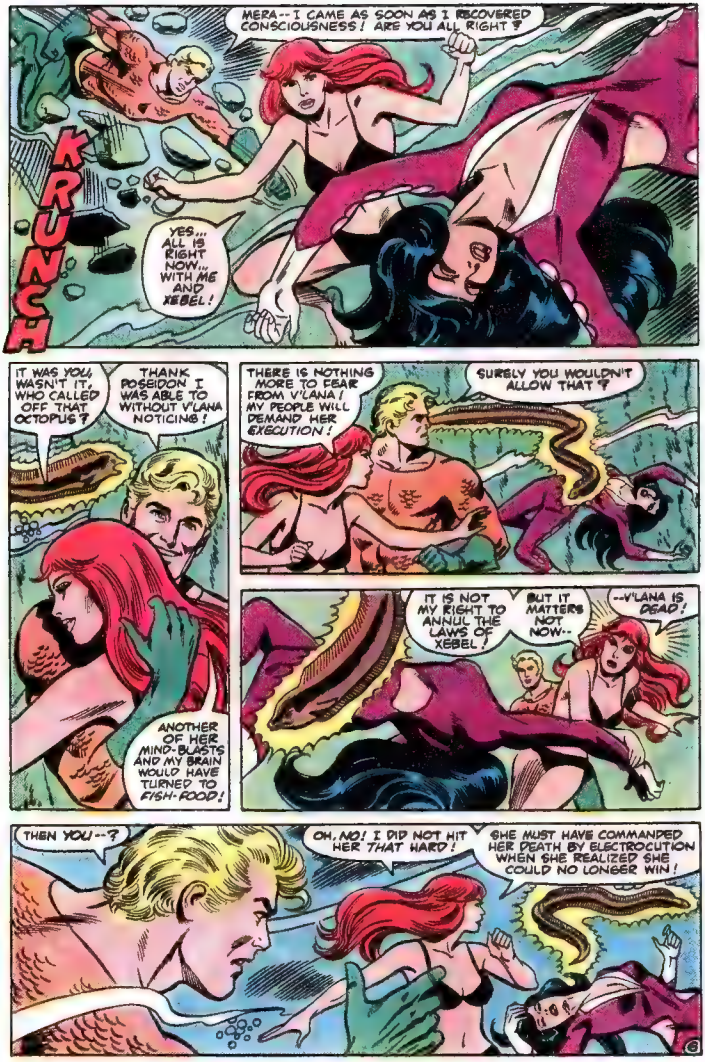

I'LL COMMAND THOSE EARTH-FISH TO...
YIIIII!
SHWAM
QUICK THINKING, AQUAMAN--BUT AS I HAVE ALREADY DEMONSTRATED--
--I HAVE THE CAPACITY TO OVERPOWER YOUR MENTAL COMMANDS!
THIS TIME I'M RENDERING YOU TOTALLY UNCONSCIOUS!
YOU TOOK CONTROL OF MY BODY AND USED ME FOR YOUR OWN EVIL ENDS, Y'LANA--
--BUT WHEN YOU STRUCK DOWN MY HUSBAND, YOU WENT TOO FAR!
PHYSICAL COMBAT IS FROWNED UPON AS UNLADYLIKE ON BOTH EARTH AND XEBEL--
--BUT IT DOES HAVE ITS MERITS!
WAM
YOU MAY HAVE THE EDGE PHYSICALLY, MERA --BUT NOT MENTALLY-- AS I'LL DEMONSTRATE BY COMMANDING THAT SHARK TO ATTACK YOU!
YOU FORGET I'VE KNOWN EARTH-FISH MUCH LONGER THAN YOU HAVE--
-- AND I KNOW WHAT EFFECT A SWAT ON THE SNOUT HAS ON A SHARK!
THWAM
2

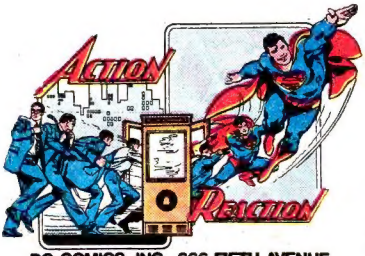
WHAT CHANGED YOU, V'LANA? WHEN I RELINQUISHED THE THRONE TO LIVE ON EARTH, YOU WERE THE NOBLEST OF SUBJECTS--
SWOK
--THE MOST WORTHY OF THE MANTLE OF LEADERSHIP! WHAT HAS CORRUPTED YOU SO?
POWER, MERA!
AND SPEAKING OF POWER --ELECTRIC EEL STUN MERA!
THE POWER ONE GAINS WITH CONTROL OF OTHER PEOPLE'S LIVES! IT IS NOT AN EASY THING TO GIVE UP!
YIIII!
BZZZP!
IT WAS YOUR DECISION TO ABANDON XEBEL FOR EARTH!
WHAT POSSIBLE REASON COULD THERE BE FOR YOU TO RETURN AND RECLAIM YOUR QUEENSHIP?
A LIFE-OR-DEATH REASON! I FOUND I COULD NO LONGER LIVE ON EARTH!
NOR WILL YOU ON XEBEL! OCTOPUS --ATTACK!
TOOT
AS YOU WELL KNOW, IT WAS NOT I WHO DEMANDED TO BE MADE QUEEN AGAIN!
IT WAS THE PEOPLE OF XEBEL WHO... WHA--?!
BLOOP
3


GASP! SHE'LL DO ANYTHING TO REGAIN THE THRONE!
YOU HAVE BEEN TREATED FAIRLY, V'LANA .. BY REBEL STANDARDS!
WE ARE BOTH BORN OF THIS WORLD ...AND IT IS BY HER LAWS WE MUST ABIDE!
I'M FREE! THE OCTOPUS BROKE ITS HOLD--ALMOST AS IF--
ENOUGH OF THIS, V'LANA!
IF FIGHT WE MUST, THEN LET US ADOPT ANOTHER EARTHLY CUSTOM--
--AND DUEL WITHOUT OUTSIDE HELP OR INTERFERENCE! YOUR STRENGTH AGAINST MINE!
AND TO MAKE SURE YOU FOLLOW THESE RULES--
--I SHALL CREATE A HARD-WATER "RING" FOR US TO FIGHT IN!

WERE THIS BATTLE ON EARTH, THERE WOULD BE AN AUDIENCE CHEERING EACH BLOW, ROOTING FOR ITS CHOSEN CHAMPION...
BUT THERE IS NO CROWD TO SEE THIS FIGHT, NO SCREAMING THRONG -- AND SO, SAVE FOR AN OCCASIONAL GRUNT OR GROAN, THE BATTLE PROCEEDS IN SILENCE...
WAK!
BASH
CLUNK!
WAAH
MY CROWN--!
YOU WON'T BE NEEDING IT ANY MORE!
SOKK!
MERA! MERA! HAIL MERA!!
YOU HEAR THAT--? IT IS MORE THAN A BIRTHRIGHT THAT MAKES ME QUEEN OF XEBEL!
5


MERA--I CAME AS SOON AS I RECOVERED CONSCIOUSNESS! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
KRUNCH
YES... ALL IS RIGHT NOW... WITH ME AND XEBEL!
IT WAS YOU WASN'T IT, WHO CALLED OFF THAT OCTOPUS?
THANK POSEIDON I WAS ABLE TO WITHOUT V'LANA NOTICING!
ANOTHER OF HER MIND-BLASTS AND MY BRAIN WOULD HAVE TURNED TO FISH-FOOD!
THERE IS NOTHING MORE TO FEAR FROM V'LANA! MY PEOPLE WILL DEMAND HER EXECUTION!
SURELY YOU WOULDN'T ALLOW THAT?
IT IS NOT MY RIGHT TO ANNUL THE LAWS OF XEBEL!
BUT IT MATTERS NOT NOW--
--V'LANA IS DEAD!
THEN YOU--?
OH, NO! I DID NOT HIT HER THAT HARD!
SHE MUST HAVE COMMANDED HER DEATH BY ELECTROCUTION WHEN SHE REALIZED SHE COULD NO LONGER WIN!

SOMETIME LATER ...
YOU ARE RETURNING TO YOUR OWN WORLD?
YES ... THERE ARE MANY THINGS THAT I AM RESPONSIBLE FOR ON EARTH!
I WISH I COULD REMAIN HERE--
-- ALMOST AS MUCH AS I WISH I DID NOT HAVE TO SAY GOODBYE TO MY WIFE ONCE AGAIN!
THEN DO NOT SAY GOODBYE ...
... TAKE ME WITH YOU!
MERA ... YOU CAN'T POSSIBLY RETURN TO EARTH--
--YOU WOULD BE SENTENCING YOURSELF TO DEATH!
NO LONGER! V'LANA CURED ME WHEN SHE TOOK OVER MY BODY AND WENT TO EARTH! I'M FREE TO GO BACK WITH YOU!
BUT XEBEL ...YOU ARE QUEEN HERE ...
AS ONE OF EARTH'S KINGS GAVE UP HIS THRONE FOR THE WOMAN HE LOVED ... SO DO I ...
... FOR THE MAN I LOVE!
THE END



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Dear Julie:

The beginning of *ACTION* #535 didn't startle me after having read last issue's final page since this month's *TEEN TITANS* already told the tale. So, "Enter—the Omega Men" didn't catch me off-guard at first, but it sure did once it got rolling! The *77* issue said that *Superman* was half of what he used to be, but it wasn't until here that we found out what that half really was. Although he temporarily saved the Galaxy Building, it took everything he had.

And with only half a *Superman* around, the *Omega Men* were quickly drafted in aiding him in his latest plight. It was really different and interesting to see *Superman* being injured and in need of medical help. With the loss of his invulnerability, the Man of Steel found himself in a new setting in that operating room. Primus calling in Lois Lane was also nice, and added to the *Superman*/Lois relationship.

The Mole has certainly made himself a formidable foe for the Man of Steel. His brief appearance last issue meant nothing, but the characterization that went on this time reveals that Marv Wolfman has him pegged as something more than a passing menace. I am now anxious to see just who it is under that gasmask with the big M on the forehead.

Marv, you really know how to pack in a lot of story, sub-plots and foreshadowing into seventeen pages. The *Omega Men* are off on a ruse and the kidnapping of *Superman* provided a real cliffhanger ending. And to think that the *Teen Titans* are going to be a part of this next issue is almost more than I can cope with! And we still have Lord Satanis, Syrene, and the other *Superman!* I'd ask for a break, Marv, but I'm enjoying this far too much!

Air Wave wrapped up his *ACTION* appearances in record time this issue and he did it by saving the Earth. "The Saucerer's Apprentice" was a very enjoyable story and it was nice to see *AW* turning into a sleuth instead of just relying on his powers. It appears that he has learned a lot from *Green Lantern, Green Arrow* and the *Black Canary*. Maybe when *GL* comes home, they can all have a reunion in his magazine. Being ousted here, I hope that *Air Wave* doesn't remain in limbo, but on the other hand, please don't put him in the *Justice League*. He got the job done this time and the tribute from the *JLA* was nice, but I feel he belongs in another revival of the *Teen Titans*. I'll miss *Air Wave* in any case and here's hoping he'll be flying high again soon.

KENT A. PHENIS
1321 North Meridian St.
Apt. 913
Indianapolis, IN 46202

The oft mentioned appearance of Air Wave in DC COMICS PRESENTS is finally on the schedule, Kent (and all the rest of you AW fans). Check out DCCP #55 when it goes on sale the first week in December. Naturally, art and story are being handled by Air Wave's regular team: Alex Saviuk and—BR

*****

Dear Julie and Bob,

The *Air Wave* feature was just right! Although lacking the eloquent poetry of a Denny O'Neil or Paul Kupperberg, Bob Rozakis' energetic finish stirred me to cheers with its masterful insight into the character and the nature of his powers. The art was respectable—accentuating *Air Wave*'s expressions right through his stultifying mask and making him glow. And let's not forget the cameo appearance by the *Justice League!*

Bob, this was a mighty fine treat!

KEVIN FISCHER
1711 Black Oak Lane
Silver Spring, MD 20910

*****

Dear Editor:

ACTION #535 was perhaps your best all-around issue in over a decade. This is due, in no small part, to the guest appearance of Marv Wolfman's *Omega Men*. Their divergent personalities (to say nothing of their startlingly varied looks), plus the fact that they bear no great love for Earthmen, gives them their appeal. They are the rarest of delights—truly unpredictable heroes!

Although this is the second installment of your continuing Lord Satanis plot, it certainly veered far from the course of last issue. Again, unpredictability—a great asset in story-telling. But wait! There's more! The Man of Steel going under a surgeon's scalpel? Worse yet, while vulnerable, he winds up in the clutches of a relatively minor league villain, one who couldn't dream of scoring such a coup if the Man of Steel were up to regular snuff.

And finally, we have a rare insight and a moment of daring honesty when Lois reveals that she isn't quite ready for marriage to *Superman* because she knows it will mean letting her career take a backseat to his. Marv Wolfman has certainly been doing some nice things with the *Superman* strip and now it's all starting to come to fruition.

The *Air Wave* back-up was superlative as well, far outdistancing anything the *Atom* or *Aquaman* strips have offered us. For a switch, Hal was actually confronting a menace of worldwide proportions, yet even here he retained that aura of wide-eyed uncertainty that makes this series both charming and unique. Although he alone overcame the alien menace, it was up to the *Justice Leaguers* to explain to him just how he saved the day. A nice change from the super-scientific minds of *The Atom* and *The Flash* who always seem to know exactly why everything happens the way it does.

SCOTT GIBSON
2711 S. Pinehurst Drive
Evergreen, CO 80439

Here's some good news for all you Omega Men fans: They will soon be coming your way in their own magazine! And while Marv's schedule is too heavy to allow him to script it, he will be editing the magazine (with Roger Slifer handling the writing chores) so you can look for the same excitement you've come to expect from the Omega Men's appearances! Watch our pages for announcements about the first issue!—BR

*****

Dear Editor:

Bravo for "Enter—the Omega Men", another jewel in Marv Wolfman's crown. I have mixed feelings about the *Omega Men* and have since their appearance in *GREEN LANTERN*. I resent aliens with Latin or puns for names ("Nimbus" and "Primus" are "cloud" and "first"; "Harpis" is very close to "Harpy" of legend; "Kalista" to the nymph "Callisto"; and "Broot" just another silly variant like "Blok" in the *Legion of Super-Heroes*). I also tire of super-hero groups that *must* include a super-strong member—maybe because I'm jealous, not possessing a Nautilus body myself.

Nonetheless, I've never read a poor *Omega Men* story. Something about them—the mix of colors, powers, and personalities—makes them work. Although Primus and Kalista look no more unearthly than *Superman*, they seem more so, and that unearthly quality suffuses the group. This was a fast-moving and beautifully involving story and I'm looking forward to the sequel.

RAND B. LEE
3 Higgs Lane
Key West, FL 33040

CONTINUED ON 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING

.....I was impressed with Marv's characterization. His depiction of the doctors on page 14 shows how the average Joe Shmoe feels about the Men of Steel. I can easily see a doctor saying a prayer if *Superman's* life were in his hands. And then that scene with Lois; my, how little dopey Lois has grown up! She finally realized she doesn't really want to marry *Superman*. Her reasons are believable. They are some of the reasons I have thought a *Superman*/Lois marriage would never work. On the other hand, a *Clark*/Lois marriage...

JEF PECKHAM
503 Marlatt Hall
Kansas State University
Manhattan, KS 66506

.....I was indifferent to the splitting of *Superman*. If anyone but Marv Wolfman had done it, I probably would not have liked it, but I trust Marv. The result is spectacular. We now have a *Superman* who is not as sure of himself nor as powerful. Now we'll get to see a *real Superman*, one who is super without his powers and not one who is a powers-junkie!

MIKE SOPP
438 West 32nd
Erie, PA 16508

....I always knew Marv was a good writer but this time he took the cake. He handled *Superman* superbly in #535!

GEOFF McCLELLAND
Route 1, Box 151-D
Fruitland, ID 83619

....I've got three words about *ACTION* #535—I LOVED IT! The *Omega Men* are fantastic, Marv's handling of *Superman* and Lois is great, and the idea of a split Man of Steel has me ready for the men in white coats to carry me away! More... more... MORE!

JOEY MacKAY
Fox Creek
Alberta, Canada

And all of the above proves that whether you readers raved over one small part of Marv's story or everything in it, you loved it... which is what really counts!—BR

*****

Dear Julie and Bob,

ACTION COMICS #535 has absolutely haunted me! It's still hard to believe that *Superman* got himself very badly hurt and put himself into surgery.

But I'm confused about the fourth panel on page 11. The doctor says that *Superman* was losing blood. I checked all the panels from when *Supes* was shot and there are no signs of blood whatsoever! Two broken ribs I can believe, but blood?

LISA FRANK
425 Valley View Road
Englewood, NJ 07631

Would you believe that the blood was so lost it disappeared right out of the panel?

. Actually, we are governed by a Comics Code ruling which prohibits showing excess bleeding in our stories. You'll just have to take the doctor's word for it!—BR

*****

Hey, You Guys:

The conversation on page 13 leads me to believe that the Mole is none other than Lex Luthor. Who else has such a great hatred for *Superman* and the ability to create those complex gadgets?

DANIEL TOBIAS
7 Broadview Rd.
Poughkeepsie, NY 12603

I don't know...who?!—BR

*****

Dear Julie and Bob:

I'm really having a ball reading the *Superman* stories by Marv Wolfman. Marv treats *Supes* like he's never been treated before... like a human being!

I don't know if anybody agrees with me or not, but I feel that Cary Bates tends to treat *Supes* like a demi-god—always winning and getting the bad guy (or gal) in the end. Marv does let *Superman* get the bad guy... eventually. But Marv has also shown us that he doesn't want *Superman* going around saying, "Hey, I'm *Superman* and I always win!" Cary doesn't do this either, but it seems like Cary does *believe* it.

Both Marv and Cary are exceptional writers and they've both proved quite capable of handling *Superman*. They both handle him the same way, but it isn't the same. Both treat *Supes* like a human, but Cary has him knowing he can do almost anything. Marv doesn't.

I don't know whose *Superman* sells better, but I enjoy both versions equally. I guess *that* is what matters most nowadays!

KEVIN T. BROWN
7846F West Lawrence Ave.
Norridge, IL 60656

And on that comparison note, we'll see you all back here again next issue!—Bob Rozakis

ON SALE NOVEMBER 24TH

DETECTIVE COMICS #523—Continuing the tales of the dread avenger of the night, The Batman! By Gerry Conway and Gene Colan. And Joey Cavalieri and Trevor Von Eeden sizzle on the cases of the Emerald Archer, GREEN ARROW. Cover by Gil Kane.

JONAH HEX #69—Before his final confrontation with Claw the Indian, Jonah must run "The Gauntlet." Story by Michael Fleisher, art by Dick Ayers and Tony De Zuniga. Cover by Ross Andru and Dick Giordano.

WEIRD WAR TALES #120—G.I.ROBOT travels to The War That Time Forgot. Naturally, it's called "The Monster Was A Lady", and it's by Robert Kanigher and Fred Carrillo. Also: "A Balance of Souls" by Wyatt Gwyon and Jess Jodolman.

WORLD'S FINEST COMICS #288—Trevor Von Eeden joins the crew this issue and Batman's body is possessed by a creature from another dimension as Doctor and Madame Zodiac continue to wreak inter-dimensional havoc. Story by Cary Burkett and art by Von Eeden. Cover by Rich Buckler and Dick Giordano.

ALL-STAR SQUADRON #18—"Vengeance From Valhalla!" In the 1940s Joe Simon and Jack Kirby pitted the SANDMAN against an adversary called—THOR! Now the Villain from Valhalla is back, with the powers of a god of thunder—and it's the ALL-STAR SQUADRON who take him on. Guest appearances by SANDMAN and the TARANTULA. Written by Roy Thomas and drawn by Adrian Gonzales. Cover by Joe Kubert.

THE NEW ADVENTURES OF SUPERBOY #38—The trials of Superboy and Superman continue. The Man of Steel is now in his teen body, reunited with his parents, and challenged by the teenaged Lex Luthor! Story by Paul Kupperberg and art by Kurt Schaffenberger. "Gone With What Wind?" is the DIAL H FOR HERO story by E. Nelson Bridwell, Bob Rozakis and Howard Bender. Cover by Ross Andru.

...Being a monthly column wherein DC's Managing Editor holds forth on matters: a) Close to his heart; b) Of little import; c) Of great import; d) That he feels like holding forth on; e) None of the above.

So **this** is what it's like to stare at a blank piece of paper knowing that you have to fill it up with intelligible scribbles! Not **at all** like writing a letters page. My writer friends warned me but I had to be fearless...

Onward!

"Dick," I was told, "you're our new Managing Editor!"

"Cool," said I.

"Now that you're Managing Editor," they said, "you can no longer continue your editing chores on the **Batman** line."

Not so cool! For **my** nickel (Len Wein's favorite line), **Batman** is the greatest hero in comics. I'll miss being involved in plotting his destiny. Also, I'd have no letters pages to write; therefore, no soapbox from which to preach (or whatever).

However, the latter fear proved foundless as all things come to he who waits. My patience was rewarded when it was decided that someone should write a monthly column chock-full of choice gossip, important dates and events, just plain chit-chat and other important stuff like that. (See final item for an example of "other important stuff".)

It was decided that we'd call this column **"Meanwhile..."** (based on a suggestion from Julie Schwartz. Thanks, Julie.) And it was decided that I would write it.

Actually, I decided that I would write it so that I could be certain I'd retrieve my lost soapbox. Of course, there are those who are certain I should be committed to the looney bin for volunteering to write a monthly column. Truth to say, they **may** be right...Near as I can recall, I've never turned my letter pages in on time and, yes, there **is** a foot tapping impatiently behind me as I write this. As a matter of fact, Pat Bastienne has just deposited a note on my desk that reads—

*Dick—Bob (Rozakis) **needs** your "Meanwhile" page **or**—He'll do something **dire, drastic,** and **dreadful**! Like **blow up** your office—with **you** in it!*

*Does **that** convey the urgency of this request?—P*

Get the picture? But I'm not worried...I **shall** prevail! I will have my soapbox!

On to more pleasant matters. Many thanks (belatedly) for the slew of congratulatory messages I received on the heels of the announcement of my promotion to Managing Editor. **Special thanks** (again belatedly) for the messages from my like number at the **"other"** comics company and **especially** for those who said such kind words with regard to my efforts on the **Batman** titles and who said I'd be missed.

I said Paul Levitz would be a hard act to follow when I inherited the **Batman** books from him and I'm equally sure that Len Wein, the **newest Batman** editor, will establish a level of excellence that will become **the** standard. Have fun, Len...I'll miss **Batman**.

You may have heard that DC is planning to publish a maxi-series that will attempt to more neatly define the DC universe in an exciting adventure yarn that will span 12 issues. Tentatively titled **"The History of the DC Universe"**, current plans are for the first issue to appear in the spring of 1983.

Fan Writer/Critic Peter Sanderson is now hard at work on researching the project for scripters Marv Wolfman and Len Wein, and it occurs to me that perhaps some of you out there may have a murky DC detail or two you'd like cleared up, explained or something. Let us hear, hear?

Speaking of 1983, have we got a year for you!

Aside from our regular monthly line-up, you'll find a variety of special DC Comics scheduled during 1983...and there'll be at **least** one of these spectacular events each month during the year with most months having **two** or more scheduled. Titles, creative teams and release dates are tentative at this moment but look at this:

10 Annuals (last year's line-up **plus Superman** and **Firestorm**.)

3 to 5 mini-series (**Deadman, Atom, JLA** for sure, two others on the drawing board).

5 (count 'em) 5 Anniversary specials. All special formats...

1-**Legion of Super-Heroes** #300
2-**Adventure Comics** #500
3-**Detective Comics** #526 (500th Anniversary of the first appearance of **Batman**)
4-**The Brave and the Bold** #200
5-**Action Comics** #544 (45th Anniversary of **Superman's** first appearance in that title)

3 maxi-series (see above for one of them). The other two are hush-hush. (**My** lips are sealed.)

3 new monthly titles (1 sword and sorcery, 2 super-hero...including an all-new **Batman** team.)

3 new monthly comics sold on a non-returnable basis. (More on what **that** means in my next column.) 2 of these will be new super-hero concepts...the other too secret to talk about now but I love it! All will be printed offset on Baxter paper.

2 DC/Marvel team-ups.

JLA/Avengers is pretty well set for the summer. A second **Titans/X-Men** set for Christmas.

Additionally, 1983 will probably see the release of our first graphic novel (...and our second **and** third if I have my druthers!)

Whew! A lotta work...but even more fun.

You'll find more details concerning our 1983 line-up in future "Meanwhile" columns. Look for 'em!

And now (dare I say it?) thank you and good afternoon.

Dick